

IN THE CLAIMS

1-102. (canceled)

103. (currently amended) A computer system operated by a first user, the computer system comprising:

~~a buffer memory; and~~

software adapted to cause the computer system to store a plurality of links to respective digital information blocks, each digital information block is generated by an individual one of a plurality of second users of one or more second computers;

wherein each of the links is associated with a single one of the digital information blocks;

wherein each digital information block and its link are associated with at least one identifier;

wherein each of the links has associated with it a bid amount the respective one of the second users attaches to that link, and wherein each link and its associated bid amount are stored in the ~~buffer memory~~;

wherein a third computer of a third user is presented with a list of links, and wherein the list is ordered by the computer system, responsive to the software and to at least the bid amounts associated with the links by the respective second users; and

wherein the list of links is configured to permit a third user to select any one of the links and, by using the selected link, ~~to download, for viewing data contained therein, the digital information block associated with the selected link to download the digital information block associated with the selected link, for viewing data contained therein.~~

104. (currently amended) The computer system as recited in claim 103, wherein:

the digital information blocks each consist of one electronic file controlled by a respective one of the second users; ~~and~~

~~the bid amount associated with a link is payable, by the respective second user, when a third user selects that link to download and view the data within the associated electronic file.~~

105. (previously presented) The computer system as recited in claim 104, wherein at least one of the electronic files comprises an electronic medical image.

106. (previously presented) The computer system as recited in claim 103, wherein the bid amount associated with a link can be freely updated by the respective second user.

107. (currently amended) A storage medium containing computer readable instructions for causing a respective computer operated by a first user to generate a graphical user interface (GUI) providing a listing of N links;

wherein each of the links is associated with a single electronic information block;

wherein each of the electronic information blocks and its associated link is generated by an individual one of a plurality of second users of one or more second computers;

wherein each electronic information block and its link are associated with at least one identifier;

wherein each of the links has associated with it a bid amount the respective one of the second users attaches to that link, and wherein each link and its associated bid amount are stored in the storage medium of the first user's computer;

wherein a third computer of a third user is presented with a list of links, and wherein the list is ordered by the first user's computer, responsive to at least the bid amounts associated with the links by the respective second users;

wherein the list of links is configured to permit a third user to select any one of the links and, by using the selected link, to download, for viewing data contained therein, the electronic information block associated with the selected link to download the digital information block associated with the selected link, for viewing data contained therein; and

wherein N is an integer greater than 1.

108. (previously presented) The storage medium as recited in claim 107, wherein the bid amount associated with a link can be freely updated by the respective second user.

109-111. (canceled)

112. (previously presented) The storage medium as recited in claim 107, wherein each of the N links is associated with an electronic information block comprising a respective electronic medical image.

113.-151. (canceled)

152. (new) The computer system as recited in claim 103, wherein the ordering of the list of links is established by further using the electronic labeling of the digital information block.

153. (new) The computer system as recited in claim 152, wherein the electronic labeling includes at least one of the following: modality, subspecialty, speed of response by the third user, and body part.

154. (new) The computer system as recited in claim 103, wherein the order of the list is established by evaluating the bid amount, a time of entry of the bid amount, and at least one additional criterion.

155. (new) The computer system as recited in claim 103, wherein the order in the list of links is determined by non-monetary variables.

156. (new) The computer system as recited in claim 103, wherein the bid amount is paid when a third user selects a particular link, downloads the associated digital information block, and takes an action required by the second user associated with the selected link.

157. (new) The computer system as recited in claim 156, wherein the action includes the third user entering information into a form.

158. (new) The computer system as recited in claim 157, wherein the form is a medical diagnosis report.

159. (new) The computer system as recited in claim 156, wherein the first computer system is configured to receive a message indicating when the action is completed.

160. (new) The computer system as recited in claim 103, wherein, for the plurality of links, each link and its associated at least one identifier are stored in at least one database.

161. (new) The computer system as recited in claim 103, further comprising at least one communications subsystem for transmitting and receiving electronic communications from outside the computer system.

162. (new) The computer system as recited in claim 103, wherein each link in the plurality of links is included in storage at a request of a second user.

163. (new) The computer system as recited in claim 103, wherein the list of links is presented in response to the computer system receiving at least one identifier from the third computer.

164. (new) The computer system as recited in claim 103, wherein the software is further adapted to cause the computer system to store at least one of the digital information blocks.

165. (new) The computer system as recited in claim 103, wherein the software is further adapted to cause the computer system to record when a link has been used and a digital information block has been downloaded.

166. (new) The storage medium as recited in claim 107, wherein, for the plurality of links, each link and its associated at least one identifier are stored in at least one database.

167. (new) The storage medium as recited in claim 107, further comprising at least one communications subsystem for transmitting and receiving electronic communications from outside the computer system.

168. (new) The storage medium as recited in claim 107, wherein the list of links is presented in response to the computer system receiving at least one identifier from the third user.

169. (new) The storage medium as recited in claim 107, wherein the order of the list is established by evaluating the bid amount, a time of entry of the bid amount, and at least one additional criterion.

170. (new) The storage medium as recited in claim 107, wherein the bid amount is paid when a third user selects a particular link, downloads the associated digital information block, and takes an action required by the second user associated with the selected link.

171. (new) The storage medium as recited in claim 170, wherein the action includes the third user entering information into a form.

172. (new) The storage medium as recited in claim 171, wherein the form is a medical diagnosis report.

173. (new) The storage medium as recited in claim 170, wherein the first computer system is configured to receive a message indicating when the action is completed.

174. (new) The storage medium as recited in claim 107, wherein the ordering of the list of links is established by using the electronic labeling of the digital information block.

175. (new) The storage medium as recited in claim 174, wherein the electronic labeling includes at least one of the following: modality, subspecialty, speed of response by the third user, and body part.

176. (new) The storage medium as recited in claim 107, wherein the order in the list of links is determined by non-monetary variables.

177. (new) The storage medium as recited in claim 107, wherein the software is further adapted to cause the computer system to record when a link has been used and a digital information block has been downloaded.

178. (new) A distributed computer network configured to present a list of links ordered by bid amount and at least one additional ordering criterion, the distributed computer network comprising:

at least one storage medium for storing said links and associated bid amounts;

at least one communications subsystem for transmitting and receiving electronic communications from outside the distributed computer network; and

at least one storage medium for storing computer readable instructions adapted to cause the distributed computer network to:

store a plurality of links to digital information blocks;

store a bid amount associated with each link;

store identifying criteria associated with each particular digital information block and its associated link;

transmit an ordered list of links in response to the receiving of at least one identifying criterion;

order the links in said presented list of links responsive to bid amount and at least one additional ordering criterion; and

configure the list of links to permit selecting any one of the links and, by using the selected link, to download the digital information block associated with the selected link, for viewing data contained therein.

179. (new) The distributed computer network as recited in claim 178, wherein the plurality of links and the associated at least one identifying criterion are stored in at least one database.

180. (new) The distributed computer network as recited in claim 178, wherein the bid amounts associated with the respective links are stored in at least one database.

181. (new) The distributed computer network as recited in claim 178, wherein:

the distributed computer network is operated by a first user;

each digital information block is generated by an individual one of a plurality of second users of one or more second computers;

each of the links is associated with a single one of the digital information blocks;

each of the links has associated with it a bid amount the respective one of the second users attaches to that link; and

the ordered list of links is presented to third computer of a third user.

182. (new) The distributed computer network as recited in claim 181, wherein each link is stored at the request of the associated second user.

183. (new) The distributed computer network as recited in claim 178, wherein the computer readable instructions are further adapted to cause the distributed computer network to provide for updating the bid amount associated with a digital information block and its associated link.

184. (new) The distributed computer network as recited in claim 178, further comprising at least one storage assembly for storing at least one of the digital information blocks.

185. (new) The distributed computer network as recited in claim 178, wherein at least one of the electronic communications received comprises a request for a link to be included in the stored plurality of links, said request including a bid amount and at least one identifying criterion associated with a digital information block.

186. (new) The distributed computer network as recited in claim 178, wherein at least one of the electronic communications received from a third user comprises at least one identifying criterion.

187. (new) The distributed computer network as recited in claim 186, wherein at least one of the electronic communications sent is the list of links which is in response to the receiving of the at least one identifying criterion, said list comprising a subset of the set of links forming the plurality of links stored in the distributed computer network.

188. (new) The distributed computer network as recited in claim 178, wherein the presented list of links comprises at least one queue of links, all members of said at least one queue having at least one identifying criterion in common.

189. (new) The distributed computer network as recited in claim 178, wherein the computer readable instructions are further adapted to cause the distributed computer network to record when a link has been used and a digital information block has been downloaded.

190. (new) The distributed computer network as recited in claim 178, wherein the computer readable instructions are further adapted to cause the distributed computer network to record when a specified action has been taken after the digital information block has been downloaded.

191. (new) The distributed computer network as recited in claim 190, wherein the distributed computer network is configured to receive a message indicating when the action is completed.

192. (new) The distributed computer network as recited in claim 190, wherein the action includes the third user entering information into a form.

193. (new) The distributed computer network as recited in claim 192, wherein the form is a medical diagnosis report.

194. (new) The distributed computer network as recited in claim 178, wherein the ordering of the list of links is established by using the electronic labeling of the digital information block.

195. (new) The distributed computer network as recited in claim 178, wherein the electronic labeling includes at least one of the following: modality, subspecialty, speed of response by the third user, and body part.

196. (new) The distributed computer network as recited in claim 178, further comprising at least one storage medium for storing at least one preview image related to a digital information block.